

C-W INFUSIONS

BY CURTIS HUGHEY (A CONTINUING NARRATION)

1838: Richard Ough, an English seaman, who was part of a trading party led by Dr. John McLaughlin arrived by canoe at Washougal. Richard, 48 years of age, 6 ft. 2 inches tall, and a healthy 240 pounds, spotted a light complexioned Indian maid, and she him. She was White Wing, approximately 18 years of age and daughter of Cascade Chief Slahuts (Sly Horse) and Running Fawn of Washougal. Dr. McLoughlin, upon seeing Ough's infatuation with White Wing, managed to keep him from offending and get him back home to Fort Vancouver.

About a month later, Richard Ough returned alone. He had many gifts and sought to marry White Wing. Chief Slahuts would not give his consent because he was afraid Richard would take her far away. After 8 days of bargaining, Chief Slahuts would consent if Richard would build a house and stay on the river. Richard told the Chief he would be ready in two days and for the wedding party to come to Fort Vancouver. On the second day, 100 full canoes headed for the Fort. Richard had a small cabin ready, the door open. Dr. McLaughlin married Richard and Betsy, (Richard's name for White Wing.) A festive mood prevailed by all in the Fort.

1839: The first child was born to Betsy and Richard, a daughter, Sarah.

1840: A forest fire out of the gorge scarred the Washougal area.

1842: Old records of Tualation Prairie Congregational Church show the account of another marriage of Richard of Cornwall, England and Betsy Slahuts of the Cascades. (This remarriage may have been as a church recognition over a civil marriage. Rev. John Smith Griffin was now at Ft. Vancouver.) Their second daughter, Grace, was born to Betsy and Richard. Their home would be blessed in the following years with four more daughters and four sons.

Earl